

Docket No. SA9-97-115
(Patent)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

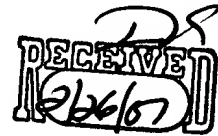
F. Lee et al.

Serial No. 09/219,195

Filed: December 21, 1998

For: **AN INTERCONNECT MODULE FOR USE IN A SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY**

Box No-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider this preliminary amendment before the Examination of the continued application filed in the above-identified application on February 05, 2001. This preliminary amendment addresses the issues raised by the Examiner's Office Action mailed on November 3, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 14, 17, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30-31, 33-34, and 36-37 as follows:

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14. (Twice Amended) A/suspension assembly comprising:
a slider/head assembly having a connecting end;
a suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths; and
an interconnect module coupling the connecting ends of the suspension and [coupled
between said suspension and said] the slider/head assembly to route one or more data signals
between said electrically conducting paths and said slider/head assembly, such that the